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March 17, 1981

Mr. William J. Casey  
Director, CIA  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

I believe I mentioned to you an article I wrote on "Churchill, Eisenhower, and the French Resistance," which relates to a committee on aid to the Maquis which neither Donovan, Eisenhower, or Joseph Haskell knew about, even though the U.S. had been assured by the British that OSS was represented. The article has just appeared in Military Affairs and I am enclosing a copy.

When next in Washington, I was going to look at the 195 boxes of OSS operational reports which John Taylor told me CIA had sent to the National Archives last year. But now John tells me that CIA had placed so many restrictions on the material that NARS is sending it back. He said that Warner was going to send you a letter regarding the problem. It is most likely this is too routine a matter to come to your personal attention, but in any case I hope that the records will ultimately get into the public domain.

With best personal wishes,

Sincerely,

Arthur L. Funk  
Professor of History

Encl.

ALF:ds



Washington, D.C. 20505

Professor Arthur L. Funk  
Department of History  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida 32611

*Arthur*  
Dear Professor ~~Funk~~:

I appreciated receiving your letter of March 17, 1981, and the copy of your article entitled "Churchill, Eisenhower, and the French Resistance." Although much has been written since OSS days, I am sure that interesting articles such as yours will continue to appear for many years to come.

With respect to your concern regarding access to the 198 cubic feet of OSS records transferred to the National Archives and Records Service (NARS) by CIA in 1980, I am sure you will appreciate that the unique nature of service with OSS weighs heavily when considering the issue of public access to information involving OSS personnel. For many persons affiliated with OSS, such public disclosure would cause no problem; indeed, they would be proud to have their accomplishments known. However, for other former OSS personnel, particularly those still employed in intelligence or living or working overseas, revelation of their OSS affiliation could adversely affect their lives or those of their family and associates.

It was for these reasons that CIA imposed certain restrictions on public access to the records when they were transferred to NARS. These restrictions provided (a) that foreign government information would not be released without the prior approval of the government concerned, and (b) that in keeping with their right to privacy, information concerning the affiliation of U.S. persons with OSS would not be released without the consent of the person involved.

NARS has examined the OSS records we sent to them and has told us informally that in view of the restrictions there is no practical way they can service public requests for the information. Because of this we have told NARS that we are prepared to take the records back until such time as they can be released without restriction.

*Retyped in ES/chris  
per Mr. Evans.  
3/31/81*

We will continue to service requests for OSS information as we have done for many years. Responses to such requests do of course omit certain information which is still classified for reasons of national security or must be withheld in accordance with statutory requirements and privacy considerations. You are welcome to send us a request if there are specific subjects of interest to you.

Sincerely,  
*Yours,*

William J. Casey